

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 5 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for courteously extending an interview on December 18, 2007. The contents of that interview are incorporated into the body of this response.

On the Merits

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (US Publication 2007\0024507) in view of *Brown* (US Patent 5,764,194).

Regarding the interview conducted with the Examiner on December 18, 2007, it was agreed that the cited references did not disclose or fairly suggest the "spherical portion provided on an end of said pivot portion," as required in claims 4 and 5. It was agreed that an amendment to independent claim 3, incorporating this feature would address the above mentioned rejection.

As such, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 5 to create two independent claims, each of which has the above mentioned feature. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment addresses and overcomes the rejection and furthermore that the amendment should be entered as no new matter is raised.

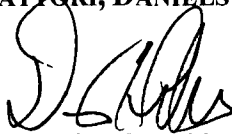
Response After Final
Application No. 10/558,756
Attorney Docket No. 053422

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hubbs', is positioned above the printed name of the attorney.

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